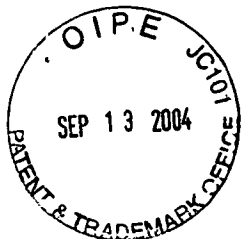


AF/2664
IFW

Patent



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/855,560

Applicants: Khouri, et al.

Filed: 05/14/2001

Art Unit: 2664

Examiner: Ho, Chuong T.

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Date

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed May 5, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter this amendment and to consider the remarks that follow:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Argument begins on page 7 of this paper.